

and various other points to interest the members of the society in the work, and have always met with their hearty co-operation and assistance. Most of the above named cities and many others have secured good milk and other ordinances.

The members of our commission in the north, Drs. Porter and Snow, have been very active, and Dr. Porter reports that he expects to have a certified milk dairy in San Francisco very shortly.

Other problems investigated, as already stated, were the water question, the vegetable ordinance, pure foods in general under national and state laws, the county health ordinance, etc. In some of these our efforts were successful, in others, time for further education is needed.

It will be seen from what has been said, that the members of the commission have not been idle. Our Stanford member, Dr. Snow, represented our commission at the Jamestown, Va., meeting of the public health officials, and our San Francisco member, Dr. Porter, has been busy working up interest in the problems of that city.

We believe a valuable organization of medical men interested in public health problems has been built up by our commission during the past year, but much is yet to be done, not only in organization, but in solving the many public health problems confronting us.

There will always be public health problems to be solved, and we believe their solution will come about much more rapidly in our state through this commission than without.

As already stated, we believe the name a misnomer, and recommend that this committee be known instead, as the public health commission of our society. We trust also, that the work it is designed to take up will lead you to continue this commission as one of your committees.

F. C. E. MATTISON, Chairman.

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TUBERCULOSIS COMMITTEE.

By F. M. POTTENGER, M. D., Chairman.

The work of the tuberculosis committee of the Medical Society of the State of California during the past year, has been more or less advisory in its nature, and while as a committee it has not followed out any set program, yet it has been consulted on many questions and has given its aid whenever and wherever sought, and in this way has done much for the carrying on of the work of the prevention of tuberculosis in California.

We would like to call the attention of the members of the society to the work which has been done in California in the prevention of tuberculosis during the past year, and while the committee does not wish to take to itself undue credit for what has been accomplished, yet we are glad to say that the committee has aided, both collectively and individually, in all of this good work.

There has at last been organized in California a State Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis; a local organization is also in the

process of formation in San Francisco, and the subject of the Prevention of Tuberculosis has been brought before many localities throughout the state during the past year by public lectures, some of which were under the direct auspices of our committee. We wish especially to congratulate the state on the intelligent activity of the Secretary of the State Board of Health; we also wish to recognize the earnest support of the State Superintendent of Public Schools, who has made it possible for the prevention of tuberculosis to be brought before many of the teachers; and, through the distribution of pamphlets in the schools, has made it possible to reach the homes of the entire state. Especial gratification is also felt in the activity which is being shown in this work by the women's clubs, and the hearty co-operation manifested by business men; all of which augurs well for the future of this movement. In no single year has so much real progress been made.

The committee bespeaks the hearty support of the profession for the movement for state organization, which will be pushed during the coming year.

We wish to call special attention to the International Congress on Tuberculosis which meets in Washington, D. C., September 21st to October 12th, 1908. It is hoped that as many as can will attend the Congress. It promises to be the greatest Congress ever held for the discussion of tuberculosis, and a visit will repay any one who can attend.

The membership fee for the congress is \$5.00, which includes a copy of the transactions. In order to give an idea of the nature of the congress, it might be mentioned that such men as Koch, Behring, Metschnikoff, Maragliano, Orth, Schroetter, and many other eminent men from abroad are expected to attend and take part in the program.

GEO. L. COLE,
JNO. C. KING,
EDWARD VON ADELUNG,
N. K. FOSTER,
F. M. POTTENGER,
Committee.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL EDUCATION.

By F. DUDLEY TAIT, M. D., Chairman.

The dominant note in medical educational matters in California during the past year is the A. A. M. C. standard of requirements to the strict enforcement of which California owes its foremost position among the states as well as its controversies in the legislature, in the courts, and with medical colleges.

In the now famous Arwin case, involving the same principles as the equally famous but untried case of Dr. Edith Claypole, the Supreme Court, for the second time, has sustained the association standard. The court held that the legislature could not intelligently fix the standard of requirements, as these were subject to natural change from time

to time; the A. A. M. C., on the other hand, would be ever in touch with advances in medical science, and could the more satisfactorily fix the standards of requirement.

Your committee has investigated the medical schools of this state in conjunction with the council of education of the A. M. A., an organization with ramifications over the entire United States, developing a tremendous force which judiciously wielded must prove a most potent factor in advancing the cause of medical education in this country. With the exception of two institutions, your committee found on all sides an honest endeavor to enforce the legal standard of requirements. While several of our colleges are far in advance of said standard in the matter of college curriculum, and compare favorably with the best of American colleges, your committee noted a regrettable misunderstanding of the matriculation requirements on the part of college deans in general. Hence a long list of irregularities directly traceable to college deans, but for which the innocent student must suffer. Many a California graduate has been denied the privilege of practicing his profession in this state through errors of matriculation. While strict constructionists may contend that the Board of Medical Examiners should concern itself only with applicants for licenses, we believe, nevertheless, the state owes advice and protection to students, and your committee respectfully tenders its services and the use of its voluminous files to the board of examiners and college deans in view of correcting a great injustice.

The California Eclectic College, of Los Angeles, owes its existence to violations of the medical act.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons, of San Francisco, has repeatedly declined to give any information whatsoever to, or be inspected by, the Board of Medical Examiners, the State Medical Society or the San Francisco County Medical Society. In reporting a repetition of illegalities in this college, your committee cannot forbear to note the anomaly of a college dean ignoring an association which he assisted in founding: Dr. Winslow Anderson was the first secretary of the A. A. M. C.

How has the new medical law operated?

Of the three radical innovations characterizing the new law, two were principally designed for the relief of the southern part of the state. First, the absolute control of "pathies," second the prosecution of illegal practitioners by the Board of Medical Examiners.

From 1901 to 1907, the Osteopathic Board issued over 900 certificates to practice osteopathy, a term which no one has been able to define, but which, according to its followers, includes all the branches of the healing art, and, at the present time, no statute forbids them practicing any or all of said branches. Under the present law, all non-medical graduates have failed most miserably at the examinations for licensure. When we remember that the matriculants of a single osteopathic college of this state greatly outnumber those of all the medical

schools of the state, the advent of a single composite examining board would seem not untimely. The section of the new law making the board a prosecuting body has operated successfully, although applied, we regret to say, only sporadically. That no financial contributions from county societies will be required for prosecuting purposes, has now been definitely demonstrated, but nothing permanent can be accomplished without the moral co-operation of said societies.

In California, as in other states, the schools exacting the highest entrance qualifications, have the fewest failures at examinations for licensure. Three reasons may be cited for what the casual observer calls the inordinately high percentage of rejections at the California licensing examinations:

First, unlike Eastern states, California receives a large proportion of applications from practitioners of ten or more years' standing, many of whom, looking upon the examinations in the light of a lottery, take a chance, without adequate preparation.

Second, ever since 1903 a small quota of the examiners have strictly avoided the prevailing quiz system, and, in addition to practical tests, have framed questions capable of measuring the applicant's general observation and his capacity to co-ordinate and apply knowledge rather than testing his memory. Such an examination necessarily eliminates the product of inferior or cramming schools.

Third, the numerous changes in the composition of the board and the frequent rotation of subjects among its members, are not conducive to experience in conducting examinations.

Although we all sympathize with the applicant who would have his examiners demonstrate their fitness prior to taking office, we cannot have too many safeguards thrown around the entrance to medical practice.

Why was the reciprocity clause stricken from the California statute? For at least one excellent reason: Many state boards failed to investigate colleges and credentials as required in California. Hence a grave injustice to California graduates, each of whom was most rigidly investigated in relation to his preliminary education and college curriculum. Reciprocity would admit to this state seventy per cent of the applicants rejected at the California examinations.

Your committee believes that reciprocity may and should come with uniform legalized standards for all practitioners, investigating boards and the strict enforcement of the laws. Under such a plan, humanity will be the gainer.

The work of the Board of Medical Examiners is not so much in conducting examinations, as in enforcing the provisions of the law relating to preliminary educational requirements, the extent, character, duration and regularity of the college course. In our estimation, the work of the board is far reaching. Its interstate relations are invaluable and unlimited. The board sits in judgment on the product of the medical colleges, and in turn may dictate to these colleges a broader and more practi-

cal line of medical education. Untiring energy, executive ability and impartiality are far more needed for the enforcement of the law than for the formulation of suitable questions and correcting the answers.

California has helped and is being watched by many states. When a year ago the A. M. A. sought a model medical act for the entire United States, Michigan, California and New York were accorded the preference, and the chairman of your committee had the honor of presenting his report last week in Chicago. Far better than individual efforts, the practical correlation of the various militant forces in the state society would prove a most potent factor in popularizing medical laws and thereby helping their execution. We cannot afford to be less energetic: We must not be less consistent. Every self-respecting member of this society should strive unceasingly to lift our colleges out of commercialism, and lift our board of examiners out of politics.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

By GEORGE H. EVANS, M. D.

The reports of the council and secretary of the work of the society during the year, leave very little that could properly come within the limits of a report by the president. It is needless for me to say to this body that the development of the society has for many years engaged my activities to a very great extent, and my term in the presidential chair has brought certain convictions relative to the necessity for organization work along certain lines, which I wish to submit to you, with recommendations.

The year which has past has witnessed a collective deflection from the membership of about seven per cent, and the causes militating to account for such loss should engage our serious attention. In a commonwealth where the number in the profession is steadily augmented year by year, where such a large proportion of the physicians are not enrolled on the membership list of the state society, and where membership is so vital to the very existence of every physician who seriously realizes the part he should fill in the medical body politic, this organization, were it properly fulfilling its functions, would necessarily steadily increase in membership. The problem becomes more acute when we contemplate the fact that in the two largest county societies, where one would naturally look for the evidence of most complete organization, the loss has been great. San Francisco has lost 72 members during the year, and Los Angeles 18. I am not unmindful of the fact that in San Francisco disturbed conditions following the disaster of 1906 have militated to disorganize our ranks to a certain extent; but I believe that the society must take some share of the responsibility, in not making its power felt more in the community. The disaster brought with it problems to be solved in which the organized profession should have led, but in which, I regret to say, it took no part. I refer in particular to matters pertaining to public health.

The constitution of component societies provides for the necessary machinery, but the fault lies with the perfunctory way in which committees are chosen, and the perfunctory manner in which they do their work. It affords me great pleasure and satisfaction to acknowledge the activity of the Board of Directors of the San Francisco County Medical Society in making its influence felt last year in the reorganization of the Board of Health of that city, at a time when a crisis seemed at hand. On the other hand, this demonstration of power only emphasizes the ability of the society to be the power in the community it should be, were its activities always properly directed. It is to be regretted that this activity was not displayed in the tenement house legislation, in the plague situation, and in more active support of the work of the local Board of Health.

It is the function of county societies to educate the laity on many of the large problems of state medicine, and to this end public meetings should be frequently held. If we are to be consistent exponents of preventive medicine, then we must instruct the layman on these matters of which he is so ignorant. The necessity of this was recognized by this body last year, and the president was empowered to appoint a committee on publicity, the function of which committee was to prepare material for publication in the lay press. This was a most important committee, and I regret that it has apparently been inactive.

The American Medical Association, recognizing the need of county societies becoming practical post-graduate schools, has prepared a course of instruction, which has been enthusiastically taken up in certain quarters. The county society will never fill the place planned for it in the comprehensive system of organization of the American Medical Association, until it becomes an active post-graduate institution, with an enrollment composed of every respectable physician in the community; and this should be the goal of every component society.

As a means to this end, I would recommend that the council should, during the coming year, actively take up the organization work in the different counties, as was done prior to 1906, and if the funds of the society permit, this house of delegates should empower the council to employ a paid organizer. This plan has been used successfully elsewhere, and it is my conviction that much good work would result from its adoption.

The component societies should be urged to take up the matter of public health legislation with their respective legislators, and with their local health boards. By means of public meetings the laity should be educated in the importance of such proposed legislation, and each society should have a committee on public health and legislation, which should be performing its duties in more than a merely perfunctory manner.

The work of the Pure Food commission, which has been most active during the year, should be put into permanent shape by the house of delegates. To